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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/118,730

July 17, 1998

Ellington M. Beavers et al

METHOD OF MAKING FREE ACIDS FROM
POLYSACCHARIDE SALTS

1623

281-28

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE
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20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY *William H. Elberg*
DATE *9/9/98*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Applicants' duty of candor and full disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, Applicants wish to call the following items to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of each item is enclosed. The following is a brief description of the relevance of each item.

U.S. Patent No. 4,801,475 (Halpern et al) discussed on page 1 of the present specification discloses a method of hydrophilic coating of plastics.

U.S. Patent No. 5,023,114 (Halpern et al) discussed on page 1 of the present specification also discloses a method of hydrophilic coating of plastics.

U.S. Patent No. 5,037,677 (Halpern et al) discussed on page 1 of the present specification discloses a method of interlaminar grafting of coatings.

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The four references listed below were cited by the Examiner in parent application Serial No. 08/781,308, filed January 15, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,789,571. These documents are incorporated by reference herein. Copies of the references cited in the prior application are not required, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(d).

U.S. Patent No. 4,589,963 (Cipriano et al)

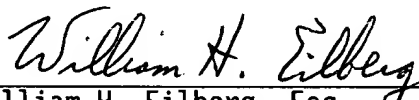
U.S. Patent No. 4,736,024 (Della Valle et al)

U.S. Patent No. 5,268,079 (Ochoa Gomez et al)

U.S. Patent No. 5,532,221 (Huang et al)

Applicants reserve the right to contest the applicability of each item described above as prior art to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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